GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
REMODELLING OF I.C.A.R.
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has suggested remodelling of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the lines of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the expert committee;

(c) the time by which the remodelling of the ICAR is likely to be taken; and

(d) the extent to which this will help/improve the functioning of the ICAR?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING "REMODELLING OF I.C.A.R.".

(a)A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology was constituted to suggest organizational and procedural changes in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.) with the aim of improving the research output of the Institution in view of the rapid and consistently accelerated changes in the economic environment particularly with reference to the need for optimization of research output and its further commercialization. The Committee has made some recommendations on the lines of prevailing systems in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.).

(b)Details of the recommendations of Dr. Mashelkar Committee are given in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d):The Committee has submitted its report on 18th July, 2005. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined in the Department for which the process of consultations has been initiated. A preliminary discussion was held on 2nd August, 2005 in which leading agricultural scientists and policy makers had participated. A special meeting of the Governing Body of the ICAR has been called on 1.9.2005 to discuss the report. The time taken for remodelling and also the extent to which these recommendations will help/improve the functioning of the ICAR can be estimated only after a final decision is taken regarding the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee.

Annexure-I
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Without diluting the advantages that flows from being a full fledged department in the Government of India, the ICAR should seek to invoke its autonomous status in its true sense to enable and empower the Governing Body of ICAR with greater powers in decision making in matters of finance and human resources.

2 . The level of Member, Finance in ICAR should be brought at par with Member, Finance in CSIR, Space and Atomic Energy Commission by designating Secretary in the MOF to be the Member, Finance in ICAR.

3. The Prime Minister of India should assume the presidentship of the ICAR society with Minister in charge of Agriculture as the Vice President. The President may delegate the powers to the Vice President for the smooth functioning of the Society as the case in CSIR.

4. Revision of the composition of Governing Body.

5. The multiple layers of command and control existing between the institute Director and the Director General should be done away with. The Directors of the Institutes should report directly to the Director-General. 6. The exiting posts of DDGs and ADGs may be

abolished. The following four functionaries will operate at the hdeadquarters::

(i) Director (Extn.)

(ii) Director (Edn.)

(iii) Director (Tech.)

(iv) Director (Co-ordinated programmes)

7. A Committee may be set up to look into the entire gamut of the KVK scheme and suggest as to whether it should remain with ICAR or be transferred to Central / State Government or adopt any other alternative model.

8. Representatives from user agencies may be nominated in the Management Committee in place of two non official members to provide efficient linkage with consumers of technology and industry.

9. The RAC should be accorded due primacy in managing the scientific portfolio of the institute. Two eminent experts from private sector and at least one eminent scientist from relevant international organizations should be members of the Research Advisory Committee.

10. The Staff Research Council may be renamed as Institute Research Committee (IRC)

11. Extracts of the proceedings relating to different projects may be added to the annual performance appraisal report of the concerned scientists so that review of performance by the institute's IRC becomes an important input in scientist's annual appraisal

12. The role of ICAR headquarters should be restricted to agenda setting, monitoring and evaluation. It should not seek to micro manage of the institutes.

13. ICAR should develop a scheme on the lines of `CSIR Jewels` Scheme. Under the scheme IARI, IVRI, NDRI, CIFE and NAARM should be given greater freedom and flexibility. They may however continue to remain integral part of ICAR.

14. The Director may be delegated full powers to the extent of provision in the plan document subject to sanctioned annual budgetary ceilings.

15. The Director/ProjectDirector (except thoseof National ResearchCentre) may be given thepay scale of Rs.22400-24500 by following a scheme approved by theGovt. for CSIR and adopted in CSIR. The Director of the 5 Institutes who are already in the higher scale may continue in the same scale.

16. ICAR may evolve a scheme for incentive to institutes for generating income from external sources

17. ICAR should computerize its system of accounting linking to IMPACT.

18. Entire research portfolio of the institutes should be projectised.

19. International collaborative projects may be encouraged to promote international benchmarking

20. The project leader / principal invest-igator should have the full financial powers for procurement of items listed in the approved project document for which funds are available in the project budget during the year

21. ICAR should evolve a competitive grant scheme on the pattern of similar scheme in operation under NATP.

22. Foreign travel proposal of Scientist may be approved at the level of Director General of ICAR. The proposal of foreign travel of Directors and above may be approved by the Agriculture Minister.
v23. A High Powered Committed may be constituted to evaluate the quality of basic research in ICAR System and suggest ways and means to enhance it.
v24. The number of National Professors and National Fellows in the area of frontier science of relevance to ICAR should be enhanced.

25. The existing promotion policy of scientists which is on the pattern of career advancement scheme of UGC may be done away with. ICAR may revert back to promotion policy as per ARS rules but modify it on the basis of experience in other publicly funded institutions.

26. The ASRB should continue to function on the lines of UPSC.Its independence should be guarded and respected by all concerned.
v27. A system should be developed to enable and encourage two way mobility of scientists between ICAR, SAU, Private Sector and International Organizations.

28. The External expert members should be nominated by the Chairman, ASRB from a panel of experts prepared and approved by the Research Advisory Committee of the concerned institute. In respect of posts at ICAR headquarters the panel of experts may be prepared and approved by the DG, ICAR.

29. A system for Quick Hire of Scientists on the lines of a similar system existing in CSIR may be evolved.
v30. The scientific posts should be kept out of the purview of the existing instructions under which only one-third vacancies arising in a

year can be filled up.

31. The general instructions relating to abolition of vacancies remaining vacant for more than a year should not apply to scientific posts in ICAR.

32. The Committee after reviewing the existing ICAR guidelines recommended modifications on the following lines ;

(i) The guidelines should delineate types of intellectual property created as a result of the research efforts of the Council

(ii) The guidelines should spell out a policy with regard to ownership of intellectual property created under various types of projects viz. sponsored, collaborative project and grant in aid project

(iii) The guidelines should include norms for pricing of intellectual property and its licensing by various means viz direct licensing by the institutes or through NRDC or other technology transfer agencies.

(iv) The guidelines should clearly delineate issue relating to contracting, pricing payment and ownership of intellectual property in cases of exploitation of ICAR knowledge base by foreign clients.

33. A Scientist entrepreneur scheme may be developed on the lines of similar scheme in CSIR.

34. A revenue sharing scheme for ICAR scientists engaged in research in partnership with industry may be designed and adopted.

35. Provision should be made for engagement of consultants for business development.

36. Provision should be made to enable ICAR institutes to set up business and marketing entities.

37. Provision should be made for deputation of scientists along with ICAR processes released to industry.

38. ICAR should develop farm and lab facilities to capitalize on the existing and emerging opportunities through development of seed/sapling/planting materials/finger lings in the mandated area.

39. Sector wise ICAR-industry interface meetings should be held annually.

40. ICAR may consider the feasibility of establishing core shared facilities in partnership with appropriate private sector industry sources on the pattern of CSIR.